



**World Wetlands Day Celebration at Warta Mouth National Park,
POLAND - 07.02.2010**

As every year, since 2001, we were celebrating World Wetland Day at our headquarters in Chyrzyno. This year we organized WWD on 7th February 2010. We have prepared some activities and contests for local people, especially for primary schools children.

The celebration was opened by Park's Director Mr. Konrad Wypychowski who made a short introductory speech about wetlands and Ramsar Convention importance. After that we started activities prepared by us specially for this occasion.

At the beginning children took part in a bird disguises fashion show. In this event 26 participants from primary schools showed different costumes representing birds from Warta Mouth National Park. During the show kids presented disguises of: white-tailed eagles, black storks, whooper swan, oystercatchers, owls, ducks and others.



White-tailed eagle



The winner - Whooper swan

All participants' parents were strongly involved in the contest. Additionally, children had to introduce the presented species by a short poem, song or tale. Ideas for disguises were very interesting, creative and beautiful. It was a hard task for the jury to choose the winner. A girl who presented a whooper swan won the contest. The audience chose their own winner, a girl who presented a mallard disguise. All participants were rewarded by a burst of applause.



Kingfisher



The second event was a presentation of a diaporama, entitled “Warta Mouth National Park”. It consisted of many photographs from our Park. These photos were made by photographers: Marek Kosiński and Olimpiusz Wenhryniewicz.

The celebration of WWD 2010 was accompanied by an exhibition of humorous drawings by Mr. Piotr Kułak. That exhibition consists of 20 drawings.



Mr. Kułak's drawing

During WWD celebration we also served delicious rice biscuits with jam.

After the interesting diaporama presentation, all guests (above 100 people) were invited for a guided excursion to Warta Mouth National Park, where they could watch birds and the winter landscape of our Park. Thirty people went on the excursion. All participants got binoculars, the guide had a telescope.

The excursion lasted approximately 2 hours. Unfortunately the weather was very bad. It was snowing and freezing, because of that people didn't see many birds species. They only saw mute swans, whooper swans, mallards, goosanders and one beaver. In spite of the bad weather participants were pleased with the excursion and interested in birdwaching and looking forward to come back in the future.

On the occasion of WWD, there were printed 10 big posters about our Park, which will be used on all environmental events in which Warta Mouth National Park takes part. Additionally, we sent information about Ramsar Convention, Ramsar List and schedule of our WWD Celebration to local newspapers.

Furthermore, as every year, we prepared free of charge workshops for students from primary school (age: 12 years), entitled: "Why do we need Wetlands?". These activities took place from 4th of February to 5th of March and 293 students from 11 local primary schools participated.



During workshops "Why do we need Wetlands?"

This year we noticed more visitors from schools, it means that students' and teachers' interest in our workshops is growing. More and more people are aware that wetlands are vitally important areas and need to be protected.

We are very satisfied with the 2010 WWD celebration and we eagerly await the 2011 one, especially that 2011 is the year of the 30th Ramsar Convention anniversary and the 10th Warta Mouth National Park designation anniversary.

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